

The President's Daily Brief

27 July 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 July 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Heavy fighting continues inside the Quang Tri citadel as South Vietnamese Airborne troops battle the Communists for control of the walled fortress. The government counteroffensive in Binh Dinh Province continues to move northward against light enemy resistance.

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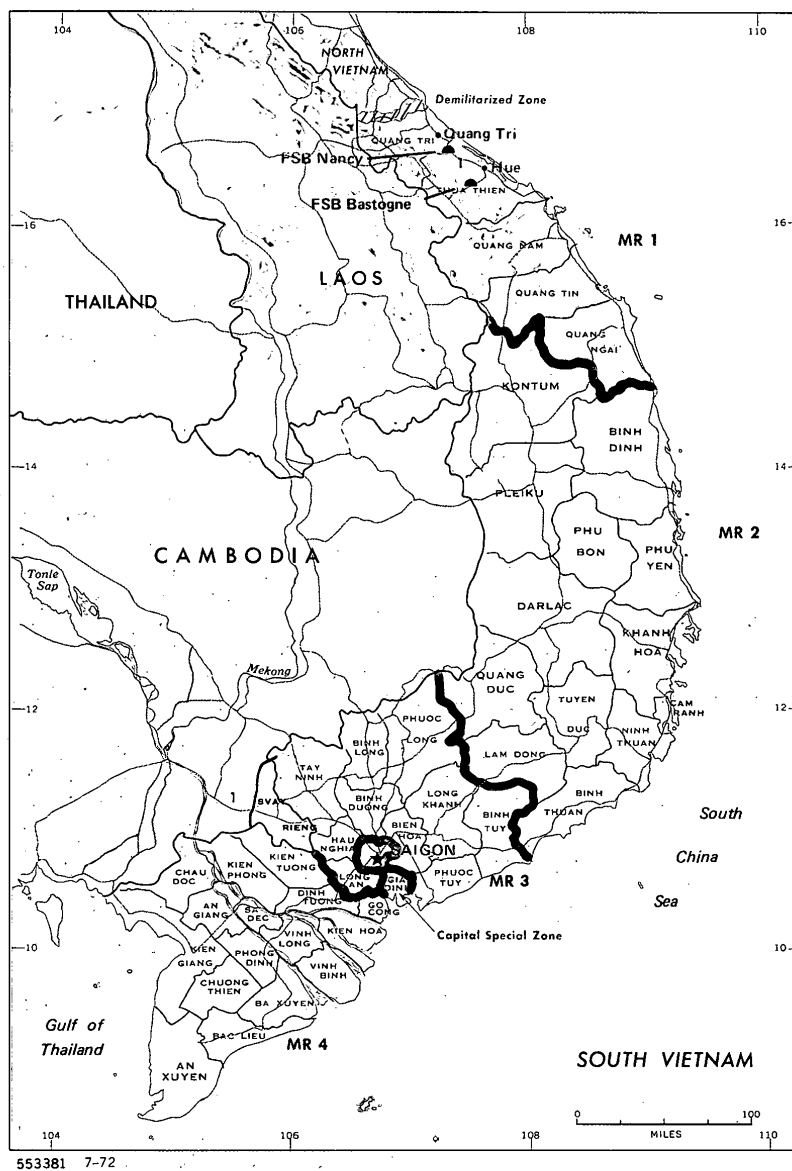
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The Soviet withdrawal from Egypt is continuing, as the Soviets attempt to put the best possible face on the matter. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Meir's first public comments on the affair were conciliatory in tone although she maintained a firm stand on the issues between Israel and Egypt.

(Page 2)

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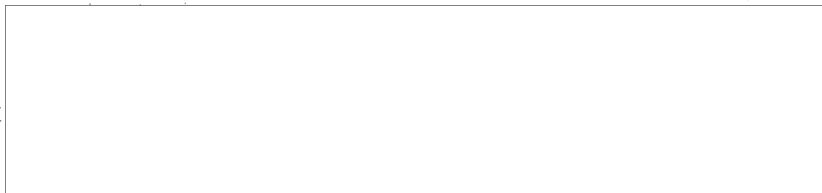
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VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Airborne troops are engaged in heavy fighting with entrenched North Vietnamese forces in the northern and western sections of the Quang Tri citadel. Five companies of airborne troops now control part of the walled fortress. These units are being supported by South Vietnamese air strikes against enemy positions. In other parts of Quang Tri City, airborne forces are moving from house to house to ferret out enemy troops. Government forces north and south of the city still are being subjected to light shellings and ground attacks.

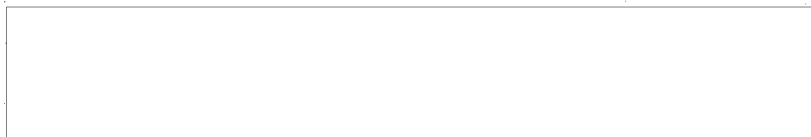
Farther south, the South Vietnamese continue to hold off enemy ground attacks in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Nancy. West of Hue, government troops yesterday temporarily withdrew a short distance from Fire Support Base Bastogne following heavy enemy shellings and ground attacks. Enemy gunners continue to harass South Vietnamese traffic on Route 1 between Hue and Quang Tri City.

The government counteroffensive in Binh Dinh Province continues to progress northward against light enemy resistance. Most enemy forces appear to have pulled out of the coastal areas in the three northern districts and moved inland to the mountains.

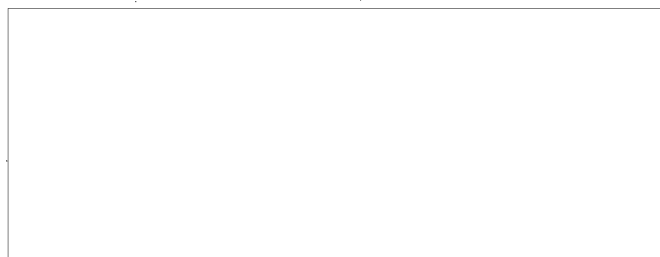


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EGYPT-ISRAEL-USSR

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[REDACTED]

As of yesterday afternoon, eight passenger aircraft had completed the round trip from the USSR. These flights could have returned home about 1,000 Soviet personnel and dependents.

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[REDACTED]

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The Soviets are continuing to put the best possible face on their reverses in Egypt. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Soviet propaganda continues to reaffirm Soviet friendship and support for Egypt, although attacks on "right-wing, reactionary elements" in Egypt are becoming standard.

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Israeli Prime Minister Meir, in commenting on the expulsion of Soviet advisers from Egypt, has taken a conciliatory tone while maintaining a firm stand on the issues. She told the Knesset yesterday that although this action could be a positive development she had seen no indication thus far of a "turning point" in Egypt's policy. Mrs. Meir reiterated basic Israeli demands for a settlement with Egypt and warned that frustration might lead the Egyptians to resume fighting.

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NOTE

Japan-China: Tokyo has approved financing by its Export-Import Bank for the sale of a synthetic fiber plant to China. Although Japan lifted its ban on official trade credits late last year, this is the first time such credits have been granted. This gesture reflects the new Tanaka administration's emphasis on improving relations with China.

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